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Sen. James Lewis
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Rep. Robert Bischoff
Rep. Phyllis Pond
Rep. William Ruppel



INDIANA STATE FAIR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

LSA Staff:

Susan Montgomery, Attorney for the Committee
John Parkey, Fiscal Analyst for the Committee

Authority: IC 15-1-1.5-4

Legislative Services Agency
200 West Washington Street, Suite 301
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2789
Tel: (317) 233-0696 Fax: (317) 232-2554

MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: October 29, 2002
Meeting Time: 2:30 P.M.
Meeting Place: Center for Agricultural Science and
Heritage, 1201 E. 38th Street,
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 2

Members Present: Sen. James Merritt, Chairperson; Sen. Allie Craycraft; Sen. James Lewis; Rep. Robert Bischoff; Rep. Phyllis Pond; Rep. William Ruppel.

Members Absent: Sen. David Ford; Rep. Terry Goodin, Vice-Chairperson.

Senator James Merritt, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 2:38 p.m. Introductions of the Committee were made.

Report of the 2002 Indiana State Fair

William Stinson, Executive Director of the Indiana State Fair, provided the Committee with Indiana State Fair Commission--2002 Revenues (Exhibit A). He pointed out that it appears there is twice the profit of the 2001 Fair. Revenue through the third quarter of the year is significantly above that of this point a year ago. In response to a question from Representative Pond, Mr. Stinson stated that in the last 5 to 6 years, the Fair has reinvested profit from one year into the next year's Fair. Answering Representative Pond

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further, Mr. Stinson said that the Fair does not plan to come to the General Assembly for appropriations in this next budget session. The Committee commended Mr. Stinson and the Fair on this.

Mr. Stinson further reported that at the last Indiana State Fair Commission meeting, there was discussion concerning the continuation of the Capital Improvement plan. The next project is that of the East Pavilion; it will begin in February 2003, after the Boat and Travel Show, and be completed in a year. The West Pavilion is completed. The Fair is working on a project with 4-H to determine what can be done about the buildings in the 3rd turn (northwest corner); they are prepared to approach the Division of Natural Resources about removing 1 or 2 of the 4-H dorm buildings there. Some of the dormitories may become exhibit space. Landscaping and sidewalks will be improved through ISTEA funding (Intermodal Surface Transportation Enhancement Act), which Representative Bischoff believed is funded every 6 years.

Representative Pond commented again that she was glad to hear that there will be no request for appropriations. Mr. Stinson observed that is due to riverboat money as a permanent source of funding, and to prudent management; the Fair is on very solid financial grounds.

Center for Agricultural Science and Heritage (The Barn)

Betsy Kranz, Executive Director of the Barn, stated that the Barn has never been allocated funds through the General Fund, but this budget session it will be requesting an appropriation (Exhibit B). She believes that it needs capital funds in order to develop into a national campus for agricultural education. Currently it is turning away requests for school groups as the programs are so popular. There are plans to remodel the Krannert Building (a former IUPUI building) as a part of the agricultural business complex. The capital budget request will be for \$14,611,150.

The Farmer's Market study is continuing and Ms. Kranz hopes that the Market will be open in 2003. A fee will be charged to the vendors, but will not be enough to fund the market. The Farmer's Markets in Bloomington and Carmel have been studied. She noted that the Bloomington market is run through a City department. Introductions of individuals serving on the Board of the Barn were made.

Chairperson Merritt noted that there were no requests for legislation for the 2003 Session through the Committee. Former Senator Dick Thompson, in attendance, complemented the Committee for legislation from the last few years relative to the Barn, the Fair, and the Committee.

Representative Ruppel commented that he had recently been in Raleigh, North Carolina, at its fair, and that he had received praise regarding Mr. Stinson. He stated that the Indiana State Fair is highly regarded in other states, and that they look to us as a model.

There being no other business before the Committee, Chairperson Merritt adjourned the meeting at 3:07 p.m.